

Through ObamaCare, the President is marginalizing the very people he says he wants to help, and now, even his closest allies have taken notice.

Mr. Speaker, President Obama's labor union friends are right. ObamaCare is destructive to low- and middle-income families, and the politicians who are responsible for this train wreck must be held accountable.

#### OUR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, hundreds of men and women are in Washington, D.C., this week representing America's transit agencies, millions of transit users, with the highest ridership in over a half century: 10.7 billion rides.

Tomorrow, they will be joined by over two dozen streetcar cities. This is one of the fastest growing new development and transit tools that is taking place all across the United States. They are here seeking the Federal Government to step up and do its job.

For the first time in over 150 years, the Federal Government is in retreat on infrastructure. It all started, as you know, with the Constitution designating postal roads as one of the first obligations of our new country, and then we were involved with the development of a system of canals to help promote American commerce.

152 years ago, the Transcontinental Railroad Act was passed that ultimately tied America together from coast to coast and led to the finest passenger and freight rail system in the world.

Later, there were massive water projects in the West, electrification projects that brought the magic of electricity to rural and smalltown America. The interstate freeway system that began germinating under the administration of President Franklin Roosevelt during the Great Depression, blossomed into full flower, signed by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Mr. Speaker, we have established mass transit, with Ronald Reagan establishing a transit account, guaranteeing 20 percent of the gas tax revenues for that critical function and actually raising the gas tax a nickel a gallon, legislation signed by President Reagan.

And then there was the legislation in 1992, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, that promoted flexibility and a large-scale vision process to make the system work. Even the much-maligned Recovery Act, the so-called stimulus, had billions of dollars to help rebuild the country. But we have been stuck now for over a decade.

In 204 days, the bottom falls out of the highway trust fund, which means the Feds are going to have to cut back

on transportation funding this summer, which means this spring. State and local governments are going to be holding back.

I have been working with business, labor, and environmental leaders, local governments, AAA, the truckers, bicyclists, and contractors to be able to come forward with a funding program that will work. The first gas tax increase in 21 years is what we have proposed that would be indexed for inflation so we wouldn't have to go through this anymore.

In addition, H.R. 3638 would explore the new methodology that was used in an Oregon pilot project that would pay for road use based on a user fee for the distance traveled. It has the opportunity not just to fund transportation but to transform the travel system in the United States.

Congress needs to step up. What are their solutions if they don't want to raise the gas tax for the first time in 21 years? Maybe we could have a hearing before the Ways and Means Committee on how we are going to finance the reauthorization.

We can, in fact, solve this problem. We can put millions of people to work to revitalize our communities and to make our families safer, healthier, and economically secure. When these men and women visit you on Capitol Hill, please be prepared to say: If not raising the gas tax, tell them what is your solution so that we don't fall off the cliff in 204 days and retard vital progress?

#### IN HONOR OF JOHN HENRY DAYTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of my constituents, John Henry Dayton, who passed away on February 9.

John was born in Turlock, California, to Charles and Florence Dayton. He was raised on a ranch in Hughson, California, with his three siblings. Mr. Dayton attended grammar and high school in Hughson and then Oregon State University. In college, he married Beverly Jean Tack. Together, they raised two children.

After college, Mr. Dayton moved back to California. In 1971, John and his business partner, Harold Copp, opened Oakdale Village Pharmacy in the city's first shopping center. Eventually, they opened additional pharmacies in Escalon and Modesto.

Mr. Dayton was later remarried to Susan Thorpe in 1995. Together, they raised two children.

Throughout more than four decades of business in the Oakdale area, John earned a reputation as a knowledgeable, personable, and trustworthy local pharmacist.

In November 2012, John was diagnosed with stage four brain cancer. He was preceded in death by his father,

Charles Dayton, and stepson, Kevin Cooper.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of Mr. John Henry Dayton and all of his contributions to his family and our community.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

At the beginning of a short workweek, we use this moment to be reminded of Your presence, and to tap the resources needed by the Members of this House to do their work as well as it can be done.

May they be led by Your spirit in the decisions they make. May their faith in You deliver them from any tensions that might tear the people's House apart, and from worries that might wear them out.

All this day, and through the week, may they do their best to find solutions to pressing issues facing our Nation. Please hasten the day when justice and love shall dwell in the hearts of all people and rule the affairs of the nations of Earth.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GALLEGO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GALLEGO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### IRAN ARMS SHIPMENT

(Mr. HOLDING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, last week we once again saw what Prime Minister Netanyahu correctly described as “the true face of Iran.”

After Israeli Defense Forces intercepted an illicit shipment of rockets, bullets, and mortars reportedly bound for Hamas fighters in Gaza, Israel was able to publicly show how Iran continues to fund and supply terrorism across the globe.

This operation also demonstrated Israel's inherent right and need to defend its people and homeland from neighboring terror groups. Madam Speaker, while the administration is quick to negotiate terms of a nuclear deal with the regime in Tehran, last week's event should serve as yet another stark reminder of whom this administration is really dealing with, but more importantly, whom they are choosing to trust.

While the face of the regime and some of their rhetoric has changed, Madam Speaker, it is clear that the Iranian regime's true intentions and end game has not.

#### MAYOR CLAY HENRY

(Mr. GALLEGRO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GALLEGRO. Madam Speaker, earlier I was on the floor and I mentioned Clay Henry as one of the former elected officials in the district that I represent. I referred to him as the mayor of Terlingua; and you would think having grown up there and lived there all of my life, I would have remembered that he was actually at one time the mayor of Lajitas. Lajitas is a wonderful resort community in the Big Bend Country, right next to Terlingua. Perhaps I had too many visits with Mayor Clay Henry.

I will tell you that one of the most beautiful parts of the world and one that I urge everyone to get familiar with is the Big Bend Country of west Texas: the Rio Grande River, the canyons. It is an amazing place. I urge everyone to get familiar with that part of the world, as there is really nothing like it in the entire United States.

#### THE IRS SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING

(Mr. COLLINS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, the American people have not received the answers they deserved from the IRS. Lois Lerner appeared before the Oversight Committee last week and again refused to provide any insight into her IRS actions in this case.

How can the President claim that there isn't even a “smidgeon of corruption” in the IRS targeting scandal?

The investigation is still ongoing. If the President truly believes that the IRS did nothing wrong, then instruct them to cooperate with our investigation.

If Lois Lerner truly did nothing wrong, which I doubt, then she should testify and lay the issue to rest. If, as the evidence suggests, the targeting of conservative groups was intentional, then what would be wrong with her explaining why she refuses to testify and continues to reassert her Fifth Amendment rights?

The American people deserve to know if their freedom of speech was abridged for political reasons and if this administration is dedicated to silencing those with opposing views. I call on Lois Lerner and the IRS to be forthcoming so we can ensure that this never happens again.

#### RECOGNIZING WORLD PLUMBING DAY

(Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD. Madam Speaker, today is World Plumbing Day. It is easy to take for granted that we can simply turn on a facet and enjoy clean water; however, we should not neglect the importance that clean water conveyance presents.

It is imperative that we keep improving water infrastructure through sound legislation to guarantee every citizen access to clean water. It is important to support and collaborate with groups such as the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, who for almost 90 years have been developing codes and standards that are used to protect systems around the world as well as ensuring America's public health for our communities.

On this World Plumbing Day, I recognize how quality, efficient plumbing systems and those highly trained professionals who work in the industry save our country money and precious resources while enhancing our quality of living, thereby keeping people safe and healthy each and every day.

#### VOTERS OPPOSE PATH TO CITIZENSHIP

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the American people continue to oppose amnesty, and they are putting their Member of Congress on notice.

A Washington Post-ABC national survey released last week shows that 39 percent of registered voters are less likely, and only 27 percent more likely, to vote for a congressional candidate who supports a path to citizenship for those in the country illegally.

There is even less support for amnesty among self-described Independents. Forty-one percent are less likely,

and only 28 percent more likely, to back a candidate for Congress who favors a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants.

Considering the media bias in favor of amnesty, these are astounding figures. According to the poll, a supermajority of Republicans, 60 percent, claim that they are less likely to support a candidate who favors amnesty. This stands in stark contrast to the meager 14 percent of GOP voters who want their candidate to confer citizenship on those here illegally.

We should listen to the voters, not amnesty proponents.

#### DECLARING MARCH 31 AS NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

(Mr. MULVANEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MULVANEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend a special thank-you to the hardworking men and women across the Nation, but especially in South Carolina, who dedicate themselves to keeping the lights on during this difficult winter. For so many of us, switching on the light switch is something that we take for granted. It is easy to forget all the hard work that goes into making that happen.

A couple of weeks ago, Winter Storm Pax hit South Carolina leaving a path of destruction in many of the smaller communities in my district without power, crippled by the ice and snow. It is something that was so dramatic that the executive director of the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff said that the storm was the most significant weather event in South Carolina since Hurricane Hugo. And I can assure you that, for us, that is saying a lot.

To give some quick numbers as to what happened, more than 3,000 people went to work in South Carolina. The folks from Duke Energy alone cleared more than 7,000 trees off of the power lines in South Carolina. It is these types of efforts that these folks put in every single winter to make sure that something that we take for granted actually happens when we flip on the lights.

In recognition of those efforts, the efforts that they undertake every single winter, I am introducing a bill today to declare March 31 as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

I hope we can count on my colleagues to send this very small thank-you. It is not much, but it is the least we can do to let these folks know that we don't always take them for granted.

#### CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY SCHOOL FROM REDDING, CALIFORNIA

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)